

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Confirmation Number: 6810  
James Carlton Bedingfield, Sr. Group Art Unit: 2614  
Serial No.: 10/706,361 Examiner: Joseph T. Phan  
Filed: November 12, 2003 Docket No.: 030132; 190254-1290  
For: IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF AUTOMATICALLY-GENERATED  
VOICEMAIL NOTIFICATIONS OF VOICEMAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL  
RECEIPT

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Statement of Reasons for Allowance includes some statements that may be viewed as an oversimplification of the examination issues, and if taken out of context, could give rise to an improper interpretation of the claims as well as the file history. For these reasons, Applicant provides the following comments.

First, Applicant asserts that there are multiple grounds supporting allowance of the presently pending claims, including grounds in addition to those stated in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Accordingly, it should not be assumed that Applicant agrees with the accuracy of the characterizations of the cited references and the claim elements in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Second, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. Section 282: "Each claim of a patent (whether in independent, dependent, or multiple dependent form) shall be presumed valid independently of the validity of other claims; dependent or multiple dependent claims shall be presumed valid even though dependent upon an invalid claim." Thus,

any dependent claims that are not addressed by the Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not rise or fall, when construed in terms of validity, with their respective independent claims, but instead should be construed independently of their respective independent claims.

Third, the scope and validity of each claim (whether in independent, dependent, or multiple dependent form) should be determined based upon the entire combination of elements/features/steps in each claim, as opposed to only the particular feature or features pointed out by the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

/Charles W. Griggers/  
**Charles W. Griggers**  
**Reg No. 47,283**  
Attorney for Applicant

**AT&T Legal Department – TKHR**

Attn: Patent Docketing  
One AT&T Way  
Room 2A-207  
Bedminster, NJ 07921  
Customer No.: **38823**